



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT REDUCED TO 500 POUNDS PER DAY IN SOUTHERN FLORIDA WEST COAST SUBZONE FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS

The daily vessel trip limit is reduced to 500 pounds beginning 12:01 a.m., March 5, 2003, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) reduced the trip limit after determining that 390,234 pounds (or 75 percent) of the 520,312-pound quota for this fishery segment had been taken.

The 500-pound trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for king mackerel in the southern Florida west coast subzone. The southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which from November 1 through March 31 extends south and west from a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundary (25° 20.4' N. lat) to a line directly west from the Lee/Collier County boundary (26° 19.8' N. lat), i.e., the Gulf and Atlantic waters off Collier and Monroe counties. From April 1 through October 31, the southern subzone is that part of the Florida west coast subzone which lies between the Lee/Collier

County boundary and a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County boundary (25° 48' N. lat.), i.e., Gulf waters off Collier County (See figures below).

The 500-pound daily trip limit will remain in effect until the 520,312-pound quota is reached or through the end of the fishing year, June 30, 2003, whichever occurs first. When commercial landings for this fishery segment reach the quota level, the fishery will be closed for the remainder of the 2002/2003 fishing year. The closure will be effective upon filing the notification with the Office of the Federal Register.

A vessel fishing under commercial trip limits and quotas must possess a commercial Federal king mackerel permit. Quotas, trip limits (see reverse side of this bulletin), and permits implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) are necessary to protect and rebuild the overfished Gulf group king mackerel resource.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: FLORIDA SUBZONES AND SEASONAL BOUNDARIES

See page for maps.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2002/2003 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone ¹	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish ²	Nov 1, 02 Feb 1, 03	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opened: Nov 1, 02	Open: 75 Fish/Day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Nov 30, 02	until until	126,563 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Nov 30, 02
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 02 390,234 lb	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Open: 500 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 21, 03	until	520,312 lb	Opened: Jan 21, 03 ³	Open: 25,000 lb/day
WESTERN ZONE	1,010,00	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Oct 25, 02	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Oct 25, 02
(Texas - Alabama)							
Hook and Line							

¹ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

² Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2003, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2003.

³ Fishery was closed until 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NOAA Fisheries Law Enforcement Division at **727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964**. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at gulf.council@noaa.gov or safmc@noaa.gov, respectively.